Equal Rights

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SATURDAY,
MARCH 22, 1930

Doris Stevens

Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women and Member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, who sailed on March 20 for Europe to attend the Conference on the Codification of International Law at The Hague. Miss Stevens was the honor guest at a luncheon given by Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley in Washington, D. C., on March 14, to welcome the delegation returning from Havana to the United States after attending the first Conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women, held in Havana, Cuba, February 17-24.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution No. 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929, by Representative Frederick W. Magrady Pennsylvania.

While Nobody Is Looking

NOT content with the disastrous results of industrial legislation applying to one sex only as exemplified by the case of the Harvard scrubwomen, the welfare workers have now introduced a telephone operators' bill into the Massachusetts Legislature which would further extend the limitation of the working hours of women beyond the large field of occupations already covered by the law.

The purpose of the bill would be accomplished by a very slight change in the wording of the law as it stands. The law of 1913 created a 54-hour-week and 10-hour-day for women in certain occupations, with permission to work longer hours under seasonal conditions. The Legislature in 1916 authorized the Department of Labor and Industries to determine when employment becomes "seasonal." Then, in 1919, the 48-hour-week and 9-hour-day law was passed covering employment in certain industries, and other industries were included in 1921. The law as it now stands reads thus: 'No child and no woman shall be employed in laboring in any factory" and so on.

The Supreme Judicial Court in 1915 ruled that the use of words over many years fortified the contention that "laboring" applied to work requiring physical effort and muscular strength.

This proposed amendment leaves out the words "in laboring" and substitutes "in connection with," so that the law would read: ". . . . No woman shall be employed in, or in connection with . . . ." Thus the field is left quite unlimited.

Commenting on this dangerous bill the Boston *Herald* says:

"No wonder that merchants and the Associated Industries are watching this proposal. What would be the effect of so broad a measure? Women themselves also should examine this measure. They have jobs to protect which may be imperiled by such laws purporting to be 'protective' restrictions. If they are to be forbidden to work voluntarily more than eight hours, thus denying them a privilege which their male competitors enjoy, how long will it be before men will replace them in the positions they now hold? Clearly there is more than one side to this question. This is a bill that ought not to be passed while nobody is looking."

The truth of the matter is that most of the welfare laws applying to women only have been passed while the women who were most concerned, the working women, were not looking. It is to be hoped that now they will follow the advice of the Boston *Herald* and open their eyes to the menace that is inherent in industrial legislation applying to one sex alone.

Columbus Sails Eastward

TO OPEN up new worlds of independence and usefulness to women, emissaries of the National Woman's Party have reversed the direction of Columbus' immortal voyage and have sailed East instead of West on their voyage of discovery. Armed with the same zeal that originally brought Columbus safely to our shores, and visioning once again a new route to the promised land, Emma Wold, Doris Stevens, Florence Bayard Hilles, Ella Riegel, Margaret Whittemore and others approach The Hague Conference on Codification of International Law almost as symbolic figures.

The promised land this time is Equal Rights for men and women, and the new route is international action.

For the first time in history women are phrasing their own demands to the assembled nations. A new voice, the voice of woman, will be heard in the councils of mankind at The Hague, and to our eternal credit that voice will plead for justice.

As the bearers of the demand for equal nationality rights, the emissaries of the National Woman's Party should have the support of every woman in this country.

The most practical method of lending support to the work at this juncture is to cable or write to the leader of the United States delegation at The Hague, David Hunt Miller, urging him to do all in his power to secure the adoption of the Equal Nationality Treaty, which reads:

"The contracting parties agree that from the going into effect of this treaty there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice relating to nationality."

Efforts should be made to have resolutions endorsing the treaty passed by various organizations and copies of these resolutions should be immediately forwarded to the leader of the United States delegation at The Hague.

For the next fortnight all effort should be directed to this one end by those who believe that men and women should enjoy Equal Rights in regard to nationality.

Havana Delegation Receives Warm Welcome

DORIS STEVENS, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and her colleagues, Mrs. Wymond H. Bradbury, Laura Berrien, Fanny Bunand Sevastos and Mary Powell who constituted the United States delegation to the conference held in Havana, Cuba, February 17-24, were the honor guests at a luncheon given by Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley on March 14 at the Grace Dodge Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. John L. Cable, wife of Representative Cable of Ohio, author of the Cable Act, members of the National Council of the Woman's Party and the presidents of four of the most important women's clubs of the District were invited by Mrs. Wiley to welcome the returning delegation.

"We are gathered together here today upon an epochal occasion," said Mrs. Wiley when she arose to introduce the speakers. "We have but recently bidden one of our members, Dr. Emma Wold, God-speed on her journey to The Hague as technical adviser to the first World Conference on Codification of International Law.

"Today we are gathered together to bid another of our members farewell on the eve of her journey as the representative of the women of the Americas, in her capacity as chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

"But today is to say 'Welcome' as well as 'Farewell,' because first we wish to welcome home our members just returned from Havana and then we shall ask the chairman of the Inter-American Commission, like Mercury poised for flight, to tell us of her accomplishments at Havana and of her plans for the future.

"Before introducing the speakers to the audience I should like to introduce the audience to the speakers.

"Turning to my right and going around the table, omitting the members of the Havana delegation who will address you later, I take pleasure in introducing Mrs. John L. Cable. The women of the world already owe much to Representative John L. Cable of Ohio, and they will owe him infinitely more if his bill to place the nationality laws for men and women on an equal basis, can pass Congress."

Mrs. Wiley then introduced the guests around the table one by one, ending finally with Alice Paul, who was seated at her left side.

"On my left hand," said Mrs. Wiley, "and nearest my heart, is one who, with all reverence let me say, is, and I hope always will be the 'author and finisher' of the destinies of National Woman's Party. No great movement was ever launched without self-sacrifice and consecration. Miss Paul's renunciation and self-sacrifice in the cause of freedom of women have been supreme. From her spiritual watch-tower she sees far into the future and her vision later become our realities.

"And now having introduced the audience to the speakers I will proceed to reverse the process."

"First I will call upon Mrs. Wymond H. Bradbury the custodian of The Book, to exhibit that wonderful achievement on 'Nationality' of Miss Paul, and the members of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission."

MRS. BRADBURY presented the monumental tome on "Nationality," prepared by Miss Paul and her colleagues which was described in Havana by Dr. James Brown Scott, president of the American Institute of International Law, as follows:

"This work," said Doctor Scott, "required the most patient and difficult investigation of the nationality laws of 84 countries, many of them remote and little known, and most of them in strange languages. I have had occasion to study the results of this research, and to compare the reports with the original laws, and I think the women are far too modest in what they claim for their accomplishment. This work is stupendous—incredible! I have never seen a piece of work done by men which could equal it. It ought to be used as a text book by every university, every embassy, every ministry and every consulate in the world."

The book, in manuscript form, was passed around among the guests. It consisted of seven large volumes of typewritten material, annotated, including one volume of tables. The book was examined with extraordinary interest and was enthusiastically commented upon.

Mrs. Wiley then introduced Fanny Bunand Sevastos, executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women who said:

"When I started for Havana a few weeks ago with the members of the Inter-American Commission of Women, all my friends had a little envious tone in their voice as they bid me farewell. Immediately a picture of sunshine and blue seas, azure skies would appear in their minds, and they would imagine the summer dresses I would wear as they were still shivering in their fur coats, even some of the boys in the office asked if their application would be considered for my assistant secretary, but when I returned and drew as near a picture as I could of what a conference really was, all their envy had miraculously vanished away.

"As I was sharing Miss Stevens' room, we would first have much difficulty in leaving our hotel, as the struggle would begin in the early morning with the telephone calls, many of which were in 'pigeon English' and most of the time which we would finally answer in making desperate efforts to be understood in Spanish. Generally, after this charming awakening we would jump in a taxi and hasten to the university where immediately upon arrival one would pull you by the right arm another would be holding your left hand, whilst a third one would be standing in front of you to prevent you from going further without hearing their demands and all of them would speak at the same time in this huge class room from which echoes would be carried out far away in the direction of the sea.

"In the work room where I stayed most of the time we had about ten stenographers all working together, in a corner the translator dictating to his private secretary all our documents. The noise in this room at certain hours was indescribable and was augmented by the coming in and going out of outside helpers who were interested in the conference and who all wanted some information. Many from the Alianza Nacional Feminista, a Feminist association, gave us their help and gathered too in this same room between the sessions, most of them asking a thousand questions, and now last but not least in importance, was the press whom we had to keep daily informed and who frequently would come to our headquarters and get their information themselves. Not only would we keep the local press informed but each day twenty-five envelopes left for the most important papers in the States. Sometimes we were there until 12 o'clock at night and two in the morning working with the newspapers and drawing up the program for the next day.

"Others who were present will tell you about the sessions, eventually I hope to hear all about what happened and hope to learn a lot today as I never was able to sit during the sessions more than five minutes at a time without being called out. The only time Doris made me appear as a speaker to explain how we proceeded in sending out the questionnaires for our nationality research, I felt to use her own expression like 'something the cat brought in' with a shiny nose and my hair half falling down my back, among those beautiful women all sitting around in their lovely dresses, so 'soigné' with pink, polished nails and beautifully made-up faces.

"But if going to a conference is only mildly a pleasure trip, it is such an experience that it is worthwhile the trouble and work, especially in the present case,

when I think that I have contributed my small share in making our first conference a great success."

AT the close of Miss Bunand's speech Mrs. Wiley introduced Laura Berrien as "another member of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, a lawyer whose ability and generous co-operation are woven into the fabric of every successful enterprise of the Woman's Party."

Miss Berrien said:

"For a long, long time Havana had a lure for me. When I knew definitely that the Inter-American Commission was holding its first session there I decided that I would no longer refuse the call.

"We left here on February 11. We had a typewriter on the train and were as busy as could be. There was so much to do that I didn't see how we could get all the things ready by the time we arrived in Havana on February 13, but we did.

"When we arrived the ship officer first called out the name of Dr. James Brown Scott, who was heading the United States delegation to the commission, also being held on cultural relations, and then there rang out 'President Doris Stevens!' She indicated that her colleagues were with her. Then all others on board waited while we, 'the distinguished guests,' if you please, disembarked. It was the first act of the Cuban Government, which had invited the Commission to hold its session there.

"And then we found, it seemed to me,, almost all the women of Havana with flowers and such a warmth in their welcome. They hailed Doris, whom they knew, with devotion, and they took us all to their hearts.

"Representatives from the Department of State and the University were also there to receive us. Then we were driven to our hotels.

"Our meetings were held in the great hall of the Law Building of the University, and we had adjoining it a large room where we had typewriters, stenographers, translators, clerks, etc., doing the vast amount of work.

"The women of Cuba, those splendid, enthusiastic women—and I may say in passing the most wonderful speakers—were magnificent in their support, their hospitality, their unceasing co-operation.

"The Government had on hand throughout the meetings one of its officers—Senor J. Mosa, so fine, so attentive—to see that every courtesy and all assistance was given us.

"Except the session held Monday morning, February 17, all meetings were open to the public. On the first day, February 17, in the afternoon, the hall was filled, and I must confess that I was thrilled as I viewed the Commission seated around that conference table where they were to discuss matters which affect so deeply the future of women and of civilization.

"I was thrilled at the welcome from the Government, the University, the Cuban Commission, and the vibrant enthusiasm of the entire audience.

Daily the sessions were held, the work was done, the future work planned. The report on nationality was there and it was consulted, read, digested, memorized, I sometimes thought. It was quoted, it was their pride and joy.

"On Thursday, February 20, the Commission adopted the treaty draft included in the nationality report, which provides that "from the going into effect of the treaty, there shall be no distinction based on sex in the laws and practices of the countries adopting it." The decision to adopt was unanimous and immediately there began plans to work for its adoption.

"Work goes on at any conference—that is what they are for; so it seems to me it is the spirit that distinguishes one from another. At this conference I found earnestness, enthusiasm, comradeship, realization of the responsibility devolving upon them as the representatives of women appointed by their Government, custodians, you might say, of the future for women.

"THE social side was delightful, dinners, luncheons, teas, receptions by officials of the Cuban Government, the University of Havana, Ambassadors and Ministers of foreign governments, organizations of women, especially the A. N. F., and by private individuals. In fact, there were so many entertainments that we had to divide up, one group taking one, and another, another, and so on.

"I attended the most beautiful affair given by the American Ambassador, where the garden was like fairyland; a lunch given by the Brazilian Minister, which was delightful.

"We were entertained in beautiful Cuban homes, where there were courts with palms, etc.

"At the luncheon given by the A. N. F. there were over two hundred women. It was one of the early affairs and we were welcomed by the presidents of all women's organizations in Havana. I have never heard such speeches.

"Every honor was accorded to Miss Stevens, who during her entire stay was the guest of the Cuban Government. She was in the place of honor at all official functions, and I cannot close without telling you how the women treated her. When she entered a room they stood and cheered (as we do for the President). This even if at a meeting some one was speaking, so she would have to slip in quietly if the meeting had begun, or wait until a speech was ended. I spoke of this. She said: 'It isn't personal. I am a symbol to them of the free woman.' I am not prepared to say that there was not much that was personal in their attitude, but it is true also that she is the free, progressive woman to them. That is a responsibility that is not hers alone, but the responsibility of every American woman who believes in Equal Rights. It is a responsibility we can meet by joining with the women of America, those wonderful Latin women, and securing the adoption of the treaty they are carrying to The Hague.

"Did I love Cuba? I adored it, but most of all I loved the spirit of the women I found."

THE final speaker at the luncheon was Doris Stevens, who was characterized by Mrs. Wiley as "having taxed her every power in her gallant accomplishments not only for the Woman's Party and the Inter-American Commission of Women, but for women everywhere in the world today."

After expressing appreciation for the charming welcome accorded by Mrs. Wiley to the Havana delegation, Miss Stevens said:

"The impressive thing about the first conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women was the fact that fourteen of the sixteen governments of the Americas which have appointed their members on the Commission were represented. Two short years had elapsed since the Commission was created by the Sixth Pan-American Conference. Two years to a day after its creation, the Conference was assembled in the same room of the beautiful University of Havana. deliberating around the same table where two years earlier some of these same women had plead with the men plenipotentiaries to allow this commission to be formed. In two years the research on nationality as its relates to women, covering 84 countries of the world, was completed and submitted in a report covering seven volumes of manuscript. This report was made by Miss Alice Paul, as chairman of the Commission's Nationality Committee. My colleagues regarded it as a kind of special miracle. It was not, however, a miracle which produced this painstaking, thorough, scholarly contribution to the status of women in international law. It was done by day and night unselfish, saint-like devotion. No group of women ever went forth more beautifully equipped with the knowledge that shall make women free . . . the exact knowledge so patiently gathered together revealing the shocking fact that men have greater rights than women to change or retain their nationality; greater rights than women to transmit nationality to their children where nationality is acquired by descent. This report recommended the adoption of the nationality

treaty drafted by Miss Paul, which reads:

"'The contracting powers agree that upon the going into effect of this treaty there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law or practice relating to nationality.'"

"The Commission voted unanimously to adopt this treaty and empowered its chairman to present it to the plenipotentriares meeting at The Hague to write new world law.

"Now we go forth to The Hague Codification Conference to tell the governments of the world there assembled that we demand equality or nothing. Our task will not be easy unless you give us your unceasing and constant support.

"'The heart more stirs to rouse a lion
Than to start a hare.'

"In this case the jurists of the world are to us a lion. But we go to meet the lion with the quiet assurance that the demand of the women of this hemisphere shall not be roared down without our protest."

Following Miss Stevens' speech the motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried, that a rising vote of thanks be given Mrs. Wiley for her hospitality, after which the members of the National Council hastened to Alva Belmont House for the Council meeting called for that afternoon.

Those present at the luncheon, in addition to the hostess, were:

Nina E. Allender, Laura Berrien, Mrs. George F. Bowerman, Mrs. Wymond H. Bradbury, Mrs. John L. Cable, Mrs. Meritt O. Chance, Mrs. Karl Fenning, Elsie Hill, Edith Houghton Hooker, Sheldon Jackson, Mme. Flora De Oliveria Lima, Mrs. Paul M. Linebarger, Burnita Sheldon Matthews, Mrs. Edgar B. Meritt, Dr. Alice Paul, Mary Powell, Elizabeth Selden Rogers, Mrs. Max Rotter, Fanny Bunand-Sevastos, Jane Norman Smith, Doris Stevens, Mabel Vernon, Maud Younger.

The Legal Status of Women in the United States

Radio Speech of Burnita Shelton Matthews on the National Woman's Party Program on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1930

EVERY now and then somebody asks: What have women done with the vote? For one thing, they have brought about a remarkable change in laws affecting the position of women. During the last ten years women have secured the passage of measures recognizing mothers as well as fathers as the parents of minor children; giving married women greater control over their property; extending the power of married women to contract and to sue; allowing married women to choose their domicile for voting purposes; equalizing as between husband and wife the grounds for divorce; putting women on an equal footing with men under the inheritance laws; establishing the eligibility of women as jurors; and opening to women political and civil offices, and employments. The attention of women is strongly concentrated upon the marriage relation, and it is not surprising that the greatest effort of women has been toward putting marriage on a partnership basis. The old common law rule giving the father the sole natural guardianship and control of a child and entitling the mother to little or no authority is so repugnant to women that they have swept it away in at least twenty States since the ballot was placed in their hands. The movement to better the position of women has gone forward in every section—the north, the south, the east and the west, and can not fail to make a deep national impression, yet there remains much to be done to secure for women complete Equal Rights with men in this land.

Our laws have for their framework the common law of England. At common law the husband had control, almost absolute, over the person of his wife; she was in a condition of complete dependence; could not contract in her own name; was bound to obey him; and her legal existence was merged in that of her husband, so that husband and wife were one, he being the one. Despite the steady advance to free women from the shackles of the common law, the statutes and decisions of the United States reflect the inferior position of women.

THERE are many laws which take little account of the claims and feelings of mothers. For instance:

In Arkansas and West Virginia the father inherits to the exclusion of the mother when their son or daughter dies without a will and leaving no children. One court has said about this state of affairs:

"We cannot conceive why the mother, who has spent her youth and strength in a labor of love and devotion to her child, should, after burying it from her sight in its narrow house, be turned from her home a beggar, according to law, with neither the consolation nor compensation of sharing in the property of her dead child."

In Washington, the beautiful Capitol of the nation, snow on the roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre caused it to cave in, killing, among others, a 17-year-old boy. His father died three months later. When the mother sued to recover damages for the death of her child, the court held that damages were allowable only to the "next of kin" of the dead boy, and that as between the father and the mother, the father is the only next of kin, and entitled to all the damages.

The celebrated jurist, Grotius, said in his day that the father is entitled to superior rights over the children "on account of the excellence of his sex." That tradition, as you have seen, still flourishes in some States, even in this the twentieth century.

Although over the legitimate child the father is usually given paramount rights and the mother little recognition, over the unfortunate child born out of wedlock which is regarded by society as an outcast, the law makes the mother the sole guardian, and contrary to the law of nature, decrees that the child has no father. Thus the male parent escapes practically all of the burdens and responsibilities incident to illegitimate parenthood. For instance, in Texas and Virginia the father can not be required to contribute to the maintenance of his illegitimate child. Since 1828 it has been the law in Florida that $50 per year, or $4.17 per month, is the father's maximum responsibility. Moreover, this $50 per year could not and cannot now be exacted for more than ten years. In effect this means that when the illegitimate child reaches ten years of age the full burden of its maintenance is thrust upon the mother, the father's contribution being stopped, and the child labor law prohibiting work by so young a minor. So, notwithstanding the change in the cost of living, and Florida's great prosperity, the father's duty to his illegitimate but innocent infant has been the same for 100 years, the law remaining changeless in a changing world.

BEFORE a woman marries she is in the eyes of the law able to look out for herself. If she wants to operate a beauty shop or a real estate office, no one will hold an inquiry as to her capacity to run it. But when she marries the law in some of the States places her under a disability and requires her to go through a complicated court procedure to satisfy the judge as to her capacity and competency. The most ignorant man, married or single, may carry on a business and no inquiry is conducted as to his qualifications. After "Ma" Ferguson was elected Governor of Texas she petitioned the court to remove her disability as a married woman in order that her contracts on behalf of the State might not be called into question. The court solemnly entered a decree, reciting that her husband's consent having been obtained her disabilities were removed.

THE double standard of morals is recognized in some States. In Maryland a man may divorce his wife for misconduct before marriage, but a divorce is not available to a woman on that ground. In Minnesota a husband whose wife is led astray may collect damages from the guilty man. On the other hand, no wife whose husband is led astray may claim compensation from the guilty woman.

It is frequently asserted that the South is the place where man is most chivalrous to women; that there women are on a pedestal. That pedestal in Georgia is not high enough to prevent the husband from climbing it to collect his wife's earnings, There was a case where the husband and wife put their earnings together and bought some land, but, without her knowledge, he had the deed made to himself and later secretly conveyed the land to his mother. The wife tried to recover her earnings or the share of the land which her earnings paid for. The Georgia Supreme Court held that she had no occasion to bring the suit; that as her earnings belonged to her husband, so did the property purchased with her earnings.

It is also true that much has been heard of the liberality of the laws of the West regarding women. Yet in the enlightened State of Montana the Supreme Court recently permitted a man to keep all of the profits of his wife's labor and turned her away empty-handed. The husband baked bread and other things to eat, and the wife sold the things to the public. Both were industrious, and over a period of years built up a good business. Unfortunately, however, they were temperamentally unsuited, and led a cat and dog existence. Each charged the other with cruelty and the court conceded that each had endured much at the hands of the other, but finally a divorce for cruelty was given to the husband. The wife was unable to obtain in the form of alimony or in any other way any of the property accumulated by their joint efforts.

The Supreme Court of Nevada in a recent case decided that a husband may, without his wife's consent, give away a portion of their common property, that is, property accumulated by the efforts of either or both of the married pair. The wife, however, is not permitted to give away any of the common property without her husband's consent, even though she may have earned the property. In the case in question the late United States Senator Nixon gave an opera house valued at $50,000 to a Nevada town. Mrs. Nixon did not join in the deed and later attempted to have the conveyance set aside on the ground that she had not joined in the gift. The court held that, as the gift was not unreasonable in proportion to the whole common property, it was valid without her consent.

New Mexico allows the husband to leave by will his half of the common property to whomever he pleases, but unless a wife outlives her husband it is a general rule that she cannot leave a dollar of her half to anyone, not even to her own children.

In forty States the services of the wife in the home belong to the husband. As a result of the rule that the services of the wife belong to the husband, he usually has the right to sue for damages for injury to her. Suits of this kind are maintainable in Illinois, Colorado, Delaware, Nebraska, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York and Tennessee. People who are inclined to consider a wife's services as of no material value would perhaps be surprised at the great value which the jury finds such services to be worth when the husband is suing for damages for their loss.

WOMEN are discriminated against with regard to public office, for example:

The Oklahoma Constitution bars women from high public posts, such as Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, Attorney-General, and State Treasurer. Despite the fact that women outnumber men in the teaching profession in Oklahoma, no woman may hold the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In Wisconsin no woman may serve as clerk to a legislative committee or in any other capacity as an employe of the State Legislature.

Women are disqualified as jurors in twenty-seven States. These are Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The United States Supreme Court has held that a State cannot bar colored men from jury service because the disbarment would brand them as an inferior class of citiens and deprive them of the equal protection of the law which is guaranteed by the National Constitution not merely to negroes, but to persons, and women are persons. Nevertheless, the court in this case said that certain restrictions might legally be put upon jury service, such as limiting it to males.

One fairy tale often told is that women are great favorites with the law, and that as a class they are protected. The minimum wage laws for women have sometimes been pointed out as evidence of this favoritism.

There is now in force in Masachusetts a minimum wage law for women and this is the way it operates: To avoid the publicity prescribed for a failure to pay the wage set, employers often replace women with men, there being no minimum wage for men. Harvard University recently discharged twenty scrubwomen and gave their jobs to men rather than comply with a ruling of the Wage Board and raise the women's wages from 35 to 37 cents an hour. One of the women had been employed by Harvard for 33 years, and one for 13 years. President Lowell, in reply to an inquiry about one of the women, wrote: "I have inquired into the discharge of Mrs. Emma Trafton from the library, and I find that the Minimum Wage Board has been complaining of our employing women for these purposes at less than 37 cents an hour, and hence the University has felt constrained to replace them with men."

THE laws dealing with the support of the family, so it is said, favor women. The majority of the States having penal non-support enactments already make it an offense for the mother as well as for the father to desert and neglect to maintain their children. For instance, the Massachusetts statute states that ". . . . Any parent, whether father or mother, who deserts or wilfully neglects or refuses to provide for the support . . . of his or her child under the age of sixteen, . . . shall be punished by a fine . . . or by imprisonment. . . ." The trend of legislation for years has been toward imposing the responsibility of maintenance upon both spouses. In many jurisdictions husband and wife mutually owe each other support, the wife is civilly liable for family expenses which sometimes may include even a diamond stud for the husband. Alimony is payable by a woman or a man in California, Iowa, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma and South Dakota. The court considers the ability and necessities of the parties and makes award accordingly. In New Hampshire a woman who deserts her husband may be imprisoned six months, or fined $20, the fine to be applied for the benefit of the deserted husband in case the court so decrees. A survey recently made in a department of the Federal Government shows that working women, in proportion to their number, assume more responsibility for the support of dependent relatives than do working men.

The theory that women are a favored class is a theory—nothing more.

One of the principles of our Government is Equal Rights to all, and special privileges to none. It is a principle, however, that has not been, but which ought to be, enforced with reference to women. Now that women have the power of the ballot and know that the Government discriminates against them at will, it is up to women to act and to secure for their sex Equal Rights and opportunities in the law and in every field of human endeavor.

Press Comment

Why Women Do Not Stammer

The Woman's Leader, London, England.

WITH perfect confidence we venture the assertion that had women, instead of men, been found to be the stammering sex, a very simple and universally accepted cause would have been found for this curious sex-distinction. It would have been explained as a defect of nervous co-ordination, one of many aspects of the weakness of women. But unfortunately it is men who stammer. Indeed a correspondent to *The Times* is forced to admit that men and women stammer in the proportion of 16:1. Some explanation is therefore needed that is not derogatory to the dignity of the male sex, and the correspondent in question, quoting from an unnamed German professor, is prepared to furnish one. Men, it appears, stammer more than women because they are more civilized—less near to the savage than women. Stammering being caused by "the interference of the conscious mind with what should be a subconscious thought process, so the growth of conscious processes, stimulated by civilization, being more advanced in the male, tends to an increase in stammering propensities." All this is very interesting, and we feel that the professor in question could, if he gave himself to the business, furnish an equally convincing explanation of why men are not only the stammering sex, but also, if comparative statistics are to be trusted, the suicidal sex, the short-lived sex, the drunken sex, and the criminal sex. Can it really be that civilization is such a d-d-d-d-dangerous thing?

For Anti-Feminists to Consider

New York Times, New York, March 7, 1930.

THE attainments and distinction of Mrs. Christine Ladd-Franklin, who died on Wednesday, were of a sort which were long thought, or asserted, to be denied to the feminine intellect. It was admitted by those who opposed the admission of women to professional schools, and to the higher walks of learning, that now and then an exceptional woman might do something in music—though not as a great composer—or in literature or the theatre; but they steadfastly denied that the female mind could ever move easily in science or metaphysics or philosophy.

Dr. Ladd-Franklin in her own life and achievements confuted these old arguments. Early in her career she did brilliant work as a mathematician and a scientific investigator, and in later years gained wide recognition in France and Germany and England, as well as at home, for her lectures and articles dealing with logic and the abstruser regions of idealistic philosophy.

It is little to say that no American women ever surpassed her in the peculiar ability of mind which she displayed in so many fields. Few outstanding men of her generation can have excelled her. Many of them, in fact, paid her the warmest tribute as one from whom the best of them might know something. An indomitable energy and unconquerable spirit accompanied her unusual powers of penetration and synthesis so that, though she lived to a great age, she appeared always fresh and eager for new intellectual enterprises and adventures.

Feminist Notes

Successful Danish Women

DANISH women are not "clamoring for rights," says Beatrice Hill Ogilvie in the *Christian Science Monitor*. "Quietly and tenaciously they are developing their capacity for service, confident that as it grows, the door of opportunity will inevitably yield to their pressure."

Two successful pioneer women in Denmark are Mrs. Erna Milde, journalist, and Mrs. Carl Neilsen, sculptor.

Mrs. Milde fought the opposition of a male newspaper staff and succeeded in 1922 in introducing the first woman's page in any Danish newspaper. Her work first appeared in the *Ekstra Bladet* of Copenhagen and was quickly followed by other women. Today every metropolitan newspaper has a regular woman contributor and they cover a wide range of subjects, embracing law, politics, and medicine.

Mrs. Nielsen's work in the field of fine arts was perhaps more dramatic but just as slow and heartbreaking. In competition with three men, she won the honor of being chosen sculptor of the equestrian statute of King Christian IX which now stands in front of the House of Parliament in Copenhagen. She received the commission in 1915 and the statue was not unveiled until November 15, 1927. For fifteen years she worked against opposition and misfortune.

The war began soon after she set to work, and money became scarce and material high. She sacrificed her private fortune and worked desperately until the statue was ready to be cast in bronze. It was broken in the casting. Feeling that if she gave up then, it would be blamed on her sex and that "all of my sister artists would suffer from my defeat," she started all over again.

Her statues have since been acclaimed throughout Europe and her own government has honored her greatly. Her husband is a noted composer.

Versatile Town-Crier

MRS. GLOVER, town-crier at Axbridge, in Somersetshire, England, is versatile.

In addition to her town-crying, for which she is paid two shillings by the Town Trust for every tour of the town, she is caretaker of a local school, and has won prizes for disc-throwing, milking, having milked twenty-three cows a day; harnessing and grooming.

She not only announces shows, election results, and political meetings in Axbridge, but often journeys to Cheddar to cry the news there.

Heads Wine Company

MRS. PETER BOND BURGOYNE, under her husband's will, has become chairman and governing director of the Bond Investment Company with a salary of eight thousand pounds a year.

Peter Bond Burgoyne was the head of the London wine firm bearing his name.

Notable Women Farmers

MARIE BORGMAN HANRAHAN and Virginia Claypool Meredith were among the five persons receiving the annual honorary recognition of the University of Wisconsin's College of Agriculture for their work in advancing the cause of agriculture during the past year.

Mrs. Meredith's selection was the bright particular feature of this year's honored list. She is a farmer outside the State of Wisconsin. After the death of her husband, she took over the family farm and developed fine herds of purebred livestock which won many prizes at exhibitions. She is active in instructing others in farming and scientific homemaking.

Mrs. Hanrahan took over a run-down farm, made a success out of it, raised a family and educated them, and is now able to take life a little bit easy after her hard fight.

Three men were also honored for the promotion of agriculture.

"Merit," says the college, "is the basis of the award. Among the people who are considered are those who have made notable contributions to the agricultural and homemaking of the State and nation. There were practical farmers, farm leaders, women leaders, editors, dairymen,

livestock breeders and many others who worked in fields related to agriculture."

The custom of such selections was originated in 1909 by Governor W. D. Hoard of Wisconsin and Dean H. L. Russell of the college. Since then the idea has been adopted by several other colleges in the country.

During the twenty years ending with 1929, seventy-eight people have been so honored by the college.

Successful Factory—Women Only

BECAUSE attractive kitchens are so necessary in this age of apartments with bedrooms, parlors, and kitchenettes rolled almost into one, two young women started out eight years ago to make fancy knicknacks — painted match-boxes, decorated mixing-bowls and candy jars. Now their hobby has grown and their capital has grown with it from the original $68 which started them, until they have opened their own factory.

Ida M. Kassimer and Florence M. Fenner started in an obscure little office in Kansas City and sold their gay and colorful little products, which they called "beautilities," to small gift shops. Their first year's business netted $2,700, the next year that sum doubled. They rented more space and employed students of the Kansas City Art Institute to help in the work. When the annual income grew to six figures, they decided to build their own factory and it is now completed. No men are employed in the factory.

Automatic heat and modern equipment eliminate the necessity for a janitor, and the cleaning is done by a maid. The only man who might possibly be called an employee of the factory is the chauffeur who drives the firm's truck and he spends all of his time at the garage, only coming to the factory when summoned by telephone.

News from the Field

Debate in Milwaukee

BERTHA B. MOLLER, Chicago attorney, debated the Equal Rights Amendment in Milwaukee on March 10 before the Milwaukee Women's Club. Irma Hochstein of the Bureau of Information and Statistics of Marquette University opposed the amendment. Miss Hochstein is also chairman of the Committee on Legal Status of Women of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters.

An audience of about three hundred women heard the debate.

Many women crowded about Mrs. Moller afterwards and said that she had clarified the legal operation of the amendment for them, and that they were convinced that Equal Rights should be established by constitutional amendment, specifically indicating their conversion to the principle of equality in labor laws.

Indiana Organizes

ORGANIZATION work being done in Indiana by Bertha B. Moller of Chicago has resulted in the formation of an Indianapolis Branch of the National Woman's Party.

Mrs. Ovid Butler Jameson was elected chairman. Mamie D. Larsh, Mrs. W. H. Roberts, Maud Starr Reed, Mary Elizabeth Ramier, Dr. Amelia Keller, Mrs. O. A. Hobbs, Mrs. W. E. Jenkins, Merica Hoagland, Fannie C. Graeter, and Lillian Sielken were named members of the executive committee.

Miss Graeter is in the insurance business and is secretary of the Woman's Rotary Club. She is a leader in Republican politics. Miss Larsh is an attorney, treasurer of the National Association of Women Lawyers, president of the Indianapolis Altrusa Club, and a leader among business women. Miss Hoagland is personnel director for the Diamond Tool & Die Company. Mrs. Ramier is an attorney and is secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association of Indiana.

At the organization meeting on March 8 Prof. William Evans Jenkins of Indiana University spoke on "Men's Real Attitude Toward Women in Politics."

American men, Professor Jenkins said, do not think of women in politics as equals. They still have the romantic mind concerning women and do not do rational thinking about them. American men have "split" minds—very romantic and very utilitarian. As a result of this attitude of mind, men think of women as a sort of angel-child combination. Women themselves have believed in the legend of the angel-child and have tried to live up to it —some perhaps because it has been necessary for them to, and they have been good actresses at it, Professor Jenkins said.

In no other nation in the world, he continued, except the Oriental countries, is there such complete segregation of the sexes as in America. The American man goes to business; his wife goes to bridge.

Politicians, the professor said, want women to "get out the vote," but when women want to collect for services rendered in political coin—that is, jobs—the men are not at home.

Council Continues Nationality Work

THE National Council of the National Woman's Party, meeting in Washington on March 14, voted to proceed vigorously with the campaign for the adoption of a nationality treaty, granting equality in nationality rights between men and women, by the World Conference on the Codification of International Law, now meeting at The Hague.

The resolutions adopted by State branches and other organizations favoring the equal nationality treaty, which was drawn up by the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, will be sent to President Hoover and to the United States plenipotentriares at the conference by mail and by telegram and cablegram.

Every effort will be made to reveal to the plenipotentiaries at the conference the widespread demand of American women for equality in nationality laws, to be arrived at by international agreement.

The council also adopted a resolution, proposed by Jane Norman Smith, authorizing the chairman of the National Woman's Party Committee at The Hague, Florence Bayard Hilles, to co-operate with the chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, Doris Stevens, and other groups at The Hague working for complete equality. This resolution further instructed the Woman's Party Committee to support no proposal which is not based on complete equality between men and women in nationality laws.

A resolution expressing the pleasure and thanks of the National Woman's Party for the action of the President in appointing a woman, Ruth B. Shipley, as one of the United States plenipotentiaries to the conference, and Dr. Emma Wold as a technical advisor, was adopted and copies sent to President Hoover, Vice-President Curtis, and Secretary of State Stimson.

Florence Brewer Boeckel of the District of Columbia resigned from membership in the national Council, and Nina Allender was elected to succeed her.

As this issue goes to press, EQUAL RIGHTS learns from the *Woman's Leader*, official organ of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (England) that the British Government in February announced its intention of appointing a woman as technical delegate to the conference, in the same kind of position to which Dr. Wold was appointed. The day after this announcement was made Captain Cazalet introduced a bill in the House of Commons "to allow women marrying foreigners to retain their nationality," made a well-informed speech about it, and no opposition arose to it. Hope was expressed that the measure would be passed even before the conference at The Hague began.

A similar measure is before the House of Representatives, and it would be admirable if Congress would adopt it before the conference concludes its work.

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